

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /061 W

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R 270850Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9383

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 1610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIA - FY 76 PARA: THE U.S. AND THE

KL DECLARATION

REF: (A) KL 1427; (B) STATE 55545; (C) STATE 066814

1. IN OUR REPLY TO DEPARTMENT'S QUERY (REF B) ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE NEUTRALIZATION PROPOSAL, WE WERE ARGUING FOR A STANCE THAT DOES NOT PLACE US UNNECESSARILY IN AN ADVERSARY POSITION WITH THE GOM ON WHAT IT CONSIDERS A MAJOR (ALTHOUGH NOT IMMEDIATELY OBTAINABLE) OBJECTIVE OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

2. WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO ISSUE A GRATUITOUS STATEMENT NOW, AND THAT IT SHOULD ONLY BE MADE IN THE FUTURE IN SOME APPROPRIATE CONTEXT, E.G. THE VISIT OF SOME SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL. OUR SAMPLE STATEMENT WAS INTENDED ONLY AS A ROUGH DRAFT.

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3. WE DISAGREE IN THE JUDGMENT THAT OUR PRESENT POSITION IS NOT ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. THE MALAYSIANS REGARD IT AS SUCH, AND CONSIDERING THE CONVENTIONAL BLANDNESS OF OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES' POLICY STATEMENTS, WE THINK THE IMPARTIAL OBSERVER WOULD SEE OUR POSITION AS SOMEWHAT CONDESCENDING DISPARAGEMENT.

4. OUR DRAFT STATEMENT IS TOO LONG AND ALSO HAS PONTIFICATING AND CONDESCENDING OVERTONES. IT HAS HOWEVER A DESIRABLE CONDITIONALITY IN PARAS B AND C. WE SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD YIELD TO THE RUSSIANS AND CHINESE IN OUR ABILITY TO COME UP (AT THE RIGHT TIME) WITH A STATEMENT SUFFICIENTLY BLURRED AND AMBIGUOUS AS TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS AND AT THE SAME TIME SOUND FAVORABLE AND FORTHCOMING TO THE MALAYSIANS.
UNDERHILL

SECRET

NNN

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